

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 18-19, 22-27, 31-37, 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Hohberger. Claims 20, 38 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hohberger in view of Pagnol. Claims 21 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hohberger in view of Fredlund and Barrett. Claims 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hohberger in view of Kohut and Grunes.

Claim 18 distinguishes over Hohberger at least by reciting said data written onto the data medium being linked in a file with data printed onto the printed document and wherein the data medium comprises a transponder that comprises an unchangeable identifier information in an electronic storage region of the transponder. Hohberger at 0111 discloses that member files are provided in card member data base 314 in sequential order with respect to card number. He also discloses embedding an RFID transponder encoded with relevant card member information from data base 314. However, there is no disclosure that data written onto the data medium is *linked* in a file with data printed onto the printed document. Furthermore, and very significantly, Hohberger nowhere discloses the data medium comprising a transponder that comprises an unchangeable identifier information in an electronic storage region of the transponder. This, together with the above-mentioned linking, is important for security and/or other types of uses of the method of the invention of claim 18.

The Examiner cites Pagnol and relies on column 1, lines 36-40 and column 4, lines 50-53 for a plurality of transponders having different identity codes in an EEPROM memory where a serial number is written in non-erasable manner. The

Pagnol reference, however, has nothing to do with a printed document comprising a recording medium having printing thereon along with a transponder where data written onto the data medium is linked in a file with data printed onto the printed document. Thus there is not only no connective teaching between the references, but also even when Pagnol is combined with Hohberger the language of claim 18 is not met since there no linking file in Pagnol and Hohberger. Furthermore, since Pagnol's disclosure is about detecting a plurality of transponders at the same time (in a relatively short time – see column 1, lines 31-36 in Fig. 1) which is necessary to identify a plurality of articles within a container (column 1, lines 31-36 in Fig. 1), this is a very different application than the present invention involving producing a printed document. Thus for this reason also there is no connective teaching which would lead one skilled in the art to combine Pagnol with Hohberger.

The linking file recited in claim 18 between the printing on the printed document and data written into the data medium allows the printed document and the linking file to be referenced over a wide area by a computer network. Thus the document may be handed out, transported, or carried by persons or on goods; and if the printed data or the data stored in the transponder is read out, by reference to the linking file on a computer network it is thus possible to identify the counterpart information by using the linking information to find the linked information.

Dependent claims 19 and 21-30 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 18. Also, with respect to dependent claim 25, where data on the document are compared with data of the file for identification of at least one of a person and goods, Hohberger does not disclose this. Rather, Hohberger discusses postcards, but does not disclose anything about identifying goods or persons.

As to dependent claim 27, Hohberger at 0061 only discusses checking the transponder and not at least one of a faulty printing, faulty identification, and an erroneous write result.

As to dependent claims 29 and 30 wherein information from which it can be detected that the document was at a monitoring point and storing that information in the data medium at the monitoring point, the monitoring point comprising at least one write station at which the document was detected, none of these features are shown in Kohut. Kohut only discloses detection with a transponder in a completely different environment (car/fuel station).

Independent claim 31 distinguishes in a manner similar to independent claim 18 and is thus allowable.

Dependent claims 32-33 are allowable at least for the reasons claim 31 is allowable.

Independent claim 34 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 18 is allowable.

Claim 36 is allowable at least for the reasons claim 18 is allowable and also be reciting that the data medium is capable of being electronically written or read without contact so that data are written onto or read from the data medium without contact in the course of a document production event. Thus claim 36 is allowable not only for the reasons noted with respect to claim 18 but by also reciting the ability to be electronically read or written.

Dependent claim 37 is allowable at least for the reasons claim 36 is allowable.

Independent claim 39 and dependent claim 40 are allowable at least for the reasons claim 36 is allowable.

Independent claim 42 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 18 but recites that the data medium is read without contact so that at least one of data or unchangeable identifier information are read from the data medium without contact and wherein at least one of the data or the identifier information read from the data medium are linked in a file with data printed on the printed document and wherein the transponder comprises the unchangeable identifier information in an electronic storage region of the transponder. As noted above with respect to claim 18, a combination of Pagnol with Hohberger does not disclose at least one of the data or the identifier information linked in a file with printed data where that unchangeable identifier information is stored in a region of a transponder.

Dependent claim 43 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 42 distinguishes. Independent claim 44 also distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 42. Claim 45 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 44 is distinguishable.

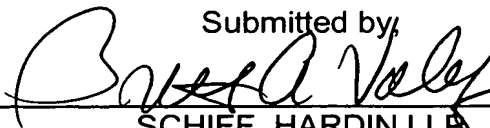
Independent claim 46 distinguishes by reciting a method wherein a recording medium is provided having printed information along with a transponder where the transponder has a non-erasable storage region having stored therein an unchangeable identifier information, then reading the unchangeable identifier information from the transponder, and then linking in a file the printed information with the unchangeable identifier information read from the transponder. At 0111 Hohberger does not teach the steps since Hohberger does not have a non-erasable storage region, does not have an unchangeable identifier information, and therefore cannot read an unchangeable identifier information. Hohberger also does not have a linking file which links the unchangeable identifier information read from the transponder. Although Pagnol has a plurality of transponders each of which has a

different identity code and wherein the identify code is written in non-erasable manner in the transponders, a combination of Pagnol with Hohberger still would not have a file linking the printed information with the unchangeable identifier information read from the transponder. Neither Pagnol nor Hohberger have this feature. Since neither have the feature, it would be impossible for the combination of the two references to have the feature.

Dependent claims 47-50 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 46 and also by reciting additional features not suggested. For example claim 47 recites in addition to the unchangeable identifier information, data is also read from the transponder. Neither Pagnol or Hohberger have this feature. Also storing in a read-only memory both the unchangeable identifier information and data read from the transponder is not shown in either Hohberger or Pagnol (claim 48). Also, as to claim 49 there is no use in Hohberger or Pagnol of a linking file to check validity of the printed document in a document processing downstream from production of the document. As to claim 50, where the transponder is already applied on the recording medium before printing on the data on the medium, Pagnol does not address this issue and Hohberger does the reverse – namely the transponder is applied after the printing, not before printing as recited by claim 50.

Allowance of the case is respectfully requested.

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